

THE
HAZELTON
LETTERS



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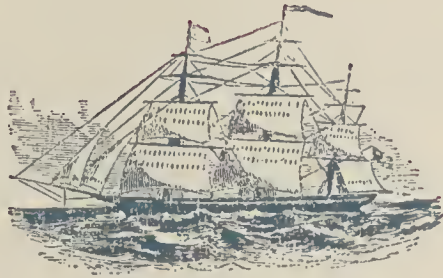
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JOHN ADAMS HAZELTON

The Hazelton Letters

A contribution to Western Americana



Edited and annotated

by MARY GENEVA BLOOM

THE COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

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DEDICATED

TO THE MEMORY OF MY GRANDFATHER

HENRY STERLING BLOOM

AND HIS FATHER

DAVID BLOOM

WHO ALSO WERE ADVENTURERS

TO THE GOLD FIELDS

*San Joaquin Co. Ca
8/24/64*

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

ONE WHO SEARCHES the byways of American history sees importance in the relatively unimportant—significance in the seemingly insignificant. Apparently of no great moment is the story of each Argonaut traveling to California in the “days of gold.” However, since there was power and meaning in the whole movement, every man who dared the journey may have been a necessary part of it.

These travelers to California a century ago saw and felt their experiences in individual ways. And the letters of some of them are still being brought from old hiding places for the first time, and found not only to be interesting evidence of that exciting era, but an indication of the part played by each traveler in the migration to the gold fields.

John Adams Hazelton, author of six letters found in the attic of the two-century-old Hazelton house in Chester, New Hampshire, was the son of Samuel and Abigail (Tabor) Hazelton. According to Dr. John Hadmar Hazelton Sticht, professor of geology at the College of the Pacific, and the finder of the letters, the Hazeltons of Chester may have been the progenitors of most of the Hazeltons of this country. John, of this account, was born August 6, 1820. Educated in the public schools of Chester, he early developed a love of music, and, having a bass voice of unusually fine quality, sang for years in the choir of the Congregational church. In 1849 he embarked with a boatload of New Englanders upon a journey around Cape Horn to California. The ship stopped at Valparaiso, where, according to the traditions of the family and a local history,¹ John Hazelton had the honor of singing before the royal family of Chile.²

Not by the campfire’s glow within a circle of covered wagons, but on a rolling, wave-tossed sailing vessel, John Hazelton wrote his first letter home—brief, but graphic.

Letter I

(Postmark) Boston, June 9. SHIP

Samuel Hazelton, Esq., East Chester, New Hampshire, U.S.

On Board Brig Rodolph³

Latitude 16° 19' Lon 35° 27'⁴

April 1, 1849

Respected Parents

We sailed from Boston Feb. 2. it was a plesent day and before we wer out of the sight of land I began to feel the head moove and shortly began to vomit in a short time it was jeneral on board Lock began to laugh at me and thought he should escape being scick because he had been down East once or twice in a Steam Boat. We took our Birthes early. I took the precaution to get a wash Bowl thinking it might be handy. in a shot time Lock began to keep time. if you could have looked in to the cabin at 12 o clock at night it would have been a rich scene it was something that I never beheld before and something I never wish to see again. The Birthes ar two tiers round the Cabin one above the other. The Sea was big blowin a gale the Brig was heaving from side to side I thought I would look around and Oh horid to Behold some wer vomit- ing in hats Two I see useing a teakettle Some were vomiting from above and it came in contact with the heads below. and the music of 28 or 30 pas- sengers vomiting and groaning was anything but harmonysing to the ear ar pleaseant to the sight.⁵

The first of our passage was very rough and wet. The rest of the time has been more plesent We crossed the Line on the 20 of March The sun was directly over our heads it was vary warm with thunder showers frequently, which makes the air very clear and fragrant it is so warm that the most of us sleep on Dec some times we ar awoke by the rain and then there is a tremen- dous rush for the cabin some nights we are driven in twice or three times. We have spoken three vessels two Bound for Europe, one for California The pasengers are wrighting letters Expecting to speak a vessel homeward bound it is rather rough and I wright by guess my head is confused and dizzey.

I must leave for a shot time it is 12 O clock. I am wrighting in the upper Cabin and the steward is about to set the table we shall have a good dinner Potatoes Beef and Duff Duff is made of flower and water with raisons mixed in and then it is put into a bag and Boiled it then makes a vary palitable dish with the addition of a little sauce, made from molarces and sugar. We have

Duff three times a week mush three times Rice three or four times Beenes or Peas twice Mackerel or Cod fish twice or three times flower cakes once or twice, scouce twice and Johney Cakes once or twice sea Bread Beef and Pork the remainder with Coffee Tea and Butter twice a day Mush is made the same as you make hasty Pudding Skouce is made into a kind of broth from Corned Beef and Potatoes There has been no sickness except sea sickness I never felt better in my life I am as harty and as fat as a Paupores if nothing hapenes we expect to arrive at California by the middle of June. I have been ofered \$2000 for one years work and have refused.

April 3 latitude 19°

Ship ahead I have only five minutes to wright I left a Bill with Daniele Richardson Against Buk and finlez for you to collect I will wright the first Chance tell Sarah Jane and all to wright direct to Sanfrancisco California

John A. Hazelton

NOTES

1. History of Chester, New Hampshire, Supplement. Compiled and Published by John Carroll Chase. Derry, New Hampshire, 1926. Page 268.
2. What is meant by "royal family" is not clear. In 1849 Chile was a republic under the conservative president Manuel Bulnes.
3. This was the Brig Randolph that sailed from Boston February 6th, according to C. W. Haskins in *The Argonauts of California* (1890), who lists thirty-six passengers—ten of whom are named in Hazelton's second letter.
4. About midway between the Caribbean Sea and the coast of Africa.
5. The reader should be reminded that lack of an adequate knowledge of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, noticeable in these letters, was rather characteristic of Americans a century ago.

Letter II

In the second letter, written to his sister, it is apparent that the Brig Randolph, on its way to San Francisco, has sailed beyond the coast of Chile. Here one learns of a futile attempt to reach a gold field of Mexico—the proverbial wild goose chase. This is followed by a tale of the brief, but successful, battle with seamen attempting to steal a small schooner. Later there is an enthusiastic description of San Francisco Bay, and a dramatic account of the unfortunate experience of another ship. Soon the purpose of the long voyage has result: These men from New England arrive at the gold fields.

(Postmark) Boston 11 Feb,

Miss Emeline Hazelton, East Chester, Newhampshire

Respected Sister

Sanfran-Cisco, California, Dec 22, 1849

In my last letter to Sarah I gave a Brief account of our voyage as far as Talcahuna¹ on the coast of Chili. after stoping ten or twelve days and having a fair wind we set sail. left port at four in the afternoon and by dark was nearly out of the sight of land it was a beautiful night and it was late before I took my birth. Lock myself and Mr. Wallace wer talking aboute the people of Chester and Lowell and what we should lik to eat I thought that I should lik some warm Brown Bread sweetapples and milk. the next morning I arose early and went on deck The wind was ahead and stormy. had bad weather for a number of days finally the wind Changed and we had the southeast Trade winds untill we wer at ten degrees above the line.² I have almost forgot to mention the beautiful Sun rises and the Sun sets. I cannot do justice in describing it seemed as if the sky was illuminated with all kinds of fireworks more beautiful than Eye can persieve. Artificial fireworks on Boston Common of a fourth of July night all set on fire at once would be a slight comparison. after these winds left us we had calms squalles and rain and some of the most frightful thunder and lightning I ever saw.

one man by the name of Wise had a paper sating that Gold was found in St. Lucous³ by an English Capt aboute one hundred years ago. and by listning to this man Wise the Company voted to put into St. Lucous thinking thay should make there fortune and not go to California and by keeping in so near land we had more Calms and head winds then we should had we cept out father. we wer a grate while in geting into port and wer so long in getting in had only one barrel of water left. had enough on board to last us to California had we cept out farther from land.

had committee of three from the pasengers and three from the owners of

the Brig to prospect and find the Gold. They started in the afternoon with there Napsack of provisions canteens of water Blankets and anough to load down a mule traveled about six miles into a mountain and stoped for the night the next morning finding there water nearly gone and finding non on there way wer obliged to come back. thay came in one at a time almost melted and beat out. one was so nearly exausted and warm as to drop on ariving. it was some tim before he recovered and this was the last of there prospecting for Gold in this place

there has been no rain for one year and every thing is dried up. the Cattle ar dying for the want of water. the Cactus growes to a great extent from three to fifteen ft in heighth with branches two or three ft long, very thick and clumsy full of prickers on which grows the prickly pair very good and wholesome to eat. at this place there is som six or seven Ranchoes one old spanish lady owns the whole plase for miles round and has her men and made servents. she ownes one or two hundred Cows and Calves, a grate many sheep and goats, with Dogs for shepherds went out with them at night as regular as a man. sweet potatoes melons grapes and figs grow to som extent. The natives ar shy of the Americans and call them Bravo Americanoes St. Josephs⁴ is about nine miles from this place and is a place of considerable importance and has some three or four thousand inhabitants. Some four or five went on to the north side of the beach after some shells and here we see the Comers or Brakers come smashing upon the beach throwing the sand high in air. Granite Rocks on the beach wer worn and looked as if they had stood the battering of a seventy-six for ages. A Bold and angrey shore. the harbour is a fine place to anchor. the north winds ar cept off by a high ridge of mountains. Some foure or five went to the top and found it broken and uneven Caverns and some of the most curious works of nature. One cave we entered and immediately ran back, thinking that the stones above would fall upon our heads, but on closer observing found the rocks over head wer piled together in such order that thay mite fall at any moment. We found out by the natives that these mountains wer thrown up by volcanic Eruptions. we found in the harbor a small schooner from the Coast of Chili. She had an American Captain which our Captain was acquainted with. She had five or six men on board all told. Bound for California three came on board and wanted to work ther pasage to California our Captain would not tak them they made applications onse or twice afterwards, and looked rather suspitious we calculated to sale at night. aboute dusk we found this schooner was making sale. thinking that all was not right our Captain hailed her but resieved no satisfactory answer our Captain and one or two others jumped into a boat and pulled for the shore, and in passing the Schooner hailed her again and told her to hall down her sales and let go her anchor, but she pate no attention they pulled for the shore and found the Capt. they hurried back as soon as

posible. as soon as they wer within hailing distanc told us to get our guns and pistolls loaded as soon as the Boat came along side. The Capt wished six men to volenteer to get back his vessel there was men anough ready to volunteer They wer soon ready and pulled for the schooner on Board the schooner they had two guns and some Pistolls with which they expected some resistance they soon came within hailing distance the captain told her to hall up her helm she toke no notice the captain told one man to take the one at mid ships and he would take the one at the wheel it was now quite Dark we could see the flash of one gun and another some six guns was fired. There was great anxiety felt on board of the Brig thinking that some one mite be wounded in the boat. she soon hove too and came back. and when within hailing distance our Capt asked if any one was hurt. not on your part was answered from the Capt, which had retaken his vessel. when the vessel had got back to her ancorage a boat put off from the Brig to learn the news, and found two men dengerously and one badly wounded the man at the wheel a Chilian was wounded with two balles one in each hip and all covered with shot and in great agony. one was wounded over the eye with a Ball an American. the other was wounded in the head slightly an Irishmen. Myself and two others volenteered to stand watch for the night. I helped the Doctor to dress there wounds and was half the nigh in getting through. Poor fellows they wer very badly off. they wer calculating to run away with the vessel and leave the Captain on shore. the Captain now concluded to sell the vessel and go up with us in the Brig he went on shore the next morning and made arrangements to have the wounded men taken on shore and taken care of, and sold his schooner went with his papers for the money and found one of his papers which he most neaded was gon. the rascals had stolen it, and now he hadent men anough to get her out of Port and he couldant sell her. she was in a leaky condition. the captain concluded to take every thing valuable out of her and strip her and let her go adrift. The next morning by daylight we hoisted anchor and left Port. the Mexicans wer along the shore perfectly amazed running in all directions. after geting out from the land head winds prevailed and drove us out into the Lon of one hundred and forty-two⁵ before we could run down our Latitude. we were over six weeks getting to Sanfransisco, which ought to be done in twenty days. this is the acount of our long pasage.

I have almost forgot to mention the selebration on the fourth of July. the decleration of independence was read by Mr. Chapman of Boston. Speeches by Mr. Watkins Blanchard Hayden of Boston. Mr. Wise of Malden was President. Poems wer delivered by Kent from Concord N H, Sullivan from Boston and others, interspersed with singing from the quartette "Club" we had a sumptous Dinner. after which toasts wer given generally from all on board. Salutes wer fired morning and evening which made the day pass off plesantly.

I also have forgot to mention some beautiful specimons of fish. The flying fish is seen in the Atlantic and Pasific in the warm latitudes. they ar from three inches to a foot in length with wings in proportion some times see them start in clouds from under the vessel. The Skipjack which is seen some times hopping out all round us. they ar a beautiful fish covered with spots and weigh from four to eight lb. The Albicorne⁶ is a fish nearly the same shape as the skipjack but weigh from six to one hundred and fifty lb we caught two of the large ones which wer good to eat. the Paupous⁷ is seen in great numbers and play round the vesel as if they wer bothering the vessel there ar two species black and striped we caught some of both kinds and weigh from one to three hundred and ar good to eat we see a grate many more things which I have not time to describe but will tell you when I get home.

San Francisco Bay is one of the most beautif Bays in the World, and on entering the Harbour the Eye is struck with astonishment to see the vast number of vessels.⁸ Lock and myself tented after leaving the Brig in what is called Happy Valey⁹ there is an other called Plesent Valey, where there is a grate many tented. on our arival learned that the John Alyne¹⁰ that I spoke of in my last letter in going through the strates¹¹ while at anchor four of her men wer gunning wer surrounded by those Gyent Patigonians three cut there way throug them the mate of the vessel was taken by them and would not give him up without a large reward they agreed to pay the ransom, but on going with the pay would not give him up without more pay. while after it there came up a tremendous storm and wer obliged to slip there Cable and put back out of the strates loosing all there anchors and probialy leaving one of there Companions to be Eat up by the Canibles. while going round Cape Horn was thrown on her Beames end twice her Bullworks stove in and one man washed overboard. it was expected by all hands that she would go down but as kind providence would have it she came up and righted herself. After getting round the horn she put into Valparaiso for repares it cost them two thousand dollars and then arived at San Francisco one week before we did.

We now began to make preparations for starting for the Mines got ready to start in a few days and went by the way of Stocton to what is called Hawkins barr¹² on the tewolime river. Stockton is aboute one hundred and sixty miles from San Francisco. we passed Benicia and Newyork on our way Benicia is aboute thirty miles from S and is the place where Government is fortifying and establishing a Navy yard. a grate many buildings ar going up here and will Become a thickley populated place there ar a grate many vesles laying here. on our way up the river we saw thousands of wild Cattle grazing on the hills. Every thing looks dried up there hasent been any raine for many months. on ariving at Stocton which was about thirty hours rid from S. found it was quite a place. the houses ar mostly built from Canvass. lumber is so scearse. Hawkins bar is Eighty miles from Stocton. we packed

our baggage on mules paid ten dollars per ton went six miles the first day, stopped at a watering place that looked much like the marshes brook water in the summer time. it made very good tea. we started early the next morning and traveled twenty miles to the next watering. we carried our water in canteens and found it very tiresome traveling in the hot sun. we arrived on Sunday at the digins pitched our tent and made preparations for work. the gold washers are made in the shape of a Cradle with rockers with a sieve at one end made from sheet iron with holes for the dirt and water to run through and cleets in the bottom of the cradle to stop the gold that settles to the bottom. hundreds of these are seen rocking up and down the river. some are making there eight ounces some one. a grate proposition do not make more than from four to eight dollars per day. we were some time in finding a place to go to work and done well for some time we then went into the dam speculation turning the river a company of seventy dug a canal one half mile in length, and the dam was nearly completed when the first rains came on and spoiled our operations for this year raining two and three days in a week. we remained two or three weeks and finding there was no chance for getting up provisions on account of mud and the swell of gulches on the road, concluded to go to San Francisco and spend the winter.

Deer are found in great numbers some times we see flocks of thirty. a grate many are killed weighting from fifty to one hundred and fifty. the most dreaded animal is the Grizzly Bear which are very plenty. one went past our tent the other night. his track measured ten inches they some times enter tents and carry off sugar and meat. they have become so troublesome about six miles above this place that a company of ten men went in pursuit with their rifles. they had not gone far before they came across one very large. they all fired and the Bear treed the hole lot hearing the firing from town eight or ten more came out with their guns and fired at the old fellow he treed these also while the last were firing the first came down loaded and gave him another volley and fetched him down twenty bullets were fired into him. after he was dressed weighed twelve hundred, and was very fat.

On our way down we see thousands of wild geese the prairies were covered with them. Antelope were seen in great numbers. every thing begins to look green and beautiful

I have forgot to tell you the price of things at the mines. hard Bread one dollar per lb potatoes and flour one dollar per lb Molasses four dollars per gal, onions and Cheese one dollar per lb fresh Beef thirty seven-fifty cts lb salt Pork one dollar lb.

on our way down the river from Stockton things look changed. the valleys and hills are the most beautiful I ever saw. on arriving at San Francisco I should hardly have known the place houses have gone up in all directions it is one continual noise of hammering and pounding. Buildings rents for enor-

mous sums the Parker house rents for 200000 dollers per year Gambling is caried on to a great extent four of us pay fifty dollars per month for a room fourteen ft by ten ft back out of the suberbs of the City and Board our selves. Board is from twelve to twentyeight dollars per week lodging is five dollars per week

Speculations ar all the go. on the arival of the Steamers with the maile from the states there is a tremendous rush for the Postoffice there is two rows of people that will reach half a mile. when you get up near to the box a man will com along and offer ten or fifteen dollars for your chance I sold mine for ten, some will continually go round that has nothing to do to sell there chances, some will buy up Steam boat tickets and sell them for one hundred dollars advance for the states. provisions are very high.

I shall send home a paper that will tell you the news. our Company is not together every one is on his own hook. Dr. Whitmer¹³ and his father I do not think so much of as I used to I will tell you the perticulars some other time I am doing very well. I never was better in my life. I have not been sick since I have been in the country and I think if you could see me you would take me for Jen. "Pillows."

Dear Sister, it has now been nearly a year since I left the home of my Childhood. no doubt ther has been many anxious hours felt for me. Father and Mother no doubt have had many a sleepness night for ther only son and I hope God in his Mersey, as he has given us health and spared our lives thus far will again restore us to our homes where we may enjoy one another's society, and when we ar done with this world we may have a home eternal and in the heavens is the prayer of thy far distant Brother

J..A. Hazelton

NOTES

1. Talcahuano. Approximately 36 degrees below the equator.
2. This would be west of Costa Rica.
3. San Lucas, a port at the lowest point of Baja California.
4. San José del Cabo. The population today is approximately 2,553.
5. A point three-quarters of the distance from San Lucas to Hawaii.
6. Abalone.
7. Porpoise.
8. "Before the end of the year [1849] a great fleet of more than five hundred vessels were at anchor off the cove, . . ." Many of the crews and even some of the

officers had deserted to go to the mines. Byington, L. F. and Lewis, Oscar, *The History of San Francisco* (Chicago-San Francisco, 1931, Vol. I), p. 158.

9. In the *Annals of San Francisco*, Soule, Gihon, and Nisbet (New York, 1855), pp. 302, 358, 489; and in *Portsmouth Plaza*, Catherine Coffin Phillips (San Francisco, 1932), pp. 99, 168, 273, references to Happy Valley indicate that it lay south of the Plaza, beyond some sandhills, which soon were to be cut away by a "steam-paddy."

10. Schooner *John Allyn*, from New Bedford, Massachusetts, listed in *The Argonauts of California*, C. W. Haskins, p. 469. No sailing date is given.

11. The Strait of Magellan.

12. "River Camps. Activity on the bars of the Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers began early in 1849. Hawkins' Bar, below Jacksonville, was the site of the first river diggings on the Tuolumne. From a population of fifteen in April 1849, it increased to one of seven hundred by September. . . . By 1852 Hawkins' Bar was practically deserted." Rensch and Hoover, *Historic Spots in California* (Stanford University Press, 1948), p. 506.

13. Dr. Whitmore, a physician of Chester, New Hampshire.

Letter III

San Francisco, Aug. 12, 1850

Dear Sister

I suppose ere this you have been anxious to hear of my whareabouts, where I have been and what I have been doing, well in the first place I have been into the country aboute twohundred and fifty miles, see a number of tribes of Indians. I did not see any Squaw that I though I should like to marry. from the fact that I did not like the looks of those hanemels that they picked out of thear heads to eat. although it may be cheap living. yet I did not like to economise in that way. not waring anything upon thear person but a small Deer skin round thear waiste, the rest of thear person is exposed to sight; as a general thing the indians wer very friendly to the Americans.

I went up for the purpose of diging Gold and succeeded in finding a few hundred dollars of the shineing stuff the largest piece was thirteen dollars

I went up to the mines¹ in April in company with four others went on a prospecting tour within ten or twelve miles of the Sierinevada Mountains. the mountains wer covered with snow from ten to fifteen ft in debth. the mountain senery was beautiful we found trees from eight to ten ft in diameter and from two to two hundred and fifty ft in heighth, mostly pine and spruce in passing over some of the mountain ranges we could look into the Canions some two thousand feet below and see streamlets of water winding its way along the rappids below.² we took with us a california Horse to carry our blankets and provisions. we lay on the ground nights wrapped up in our blankets as snug as a bug in a rug. we see a large Grizley but he made off as if he was not particular of becoming acquainted. I am sorry to inform you that we didnot succeede in finding any new deposits of Gold.

We went back to our old diggins and contented ourselves in working in the old place from eight to twelve dollars per day. after our hole gave out we started for San Francisco, Aug. 10. found three letters in the office two from home one dated April 18 the other May 18. the only letters I have received from home since November last. one letter I received from Robert Shirley esqr. when you write me let me know how many letters you have received from me.

there is any quantity of suffering among the Emigrants this season. I have seen a person who has seen more suffering that he ever saw. he and his pardner expended aboute five hundred dollars to keep the poor suffers from starving to death had seen a great many people who had dropped down Dead on the dry sandy planes. some who had arived within two or three days march of the northern mines and become so weak for the want of nourishment that

they could go no further, and wer dying off in grate numbers. some of the miners had packed over some provisions flower was selling at three dollars per lb and other things acordingly. why men will come out here after they have heard as much as they have it seems as if they must be mad or insane

In regard to my living last winter I lived in company with three others that came out in the vessel with me we took turnes in doing the cooking I done my own washing when I had nothing else to do.

tell Mary³ I am much obliged to her for letting me know aboute those little *sings sings*. it is something we dont have a chance to see very often out here in regard to coming home it is hard to tell when I shall start. when I get ready I shall come all of a sudden I have greate reason to be thankful that my health has been good the country seemes to agree with me well.

I see Mr. Ellery oute here a few days since he was well and appeared glad to see me also Mr. Mears I saw has been very unfortunate has lost two of his children his wife has been very sick, but is now better they will start for the states this week

remember me to all enquiring friends

From John a Hazelton

NOTES

1. Hawkin's Bar, where he had gone early in the year. "No living person can mark with any degree of exactitude the site of this once celebrated camp." *The Saga of Old Tuolumne*, Edna Bryan Buckbee (N. Y., 1935), pp. 434, 435. In *Maps of the California Gold Region*, Carl I. Wheat (S. F., 1942, Grabhorn), p. 80 (Jackson's map—1850), the Bar is located on the south bank at the confluence of the Tuolumne and a branch on the north, just above Crescent City (changed to Empire City on the R. H. Ellis map of 1850).

2. This would seem to be in the region of present Hetch Hetchy, or Yosemite National Park.

3. Probably his youngest sister, who was thirteen years old.

Letter IV

San Francisco. Oct. 31 1850

Dear Father

Having a few moments to write and an opportunity of sending home by Mr. Woods I improve the chance. I am doing well and if I have my health and nothing hapenes I shall expect to be ready to come home next Spring. my health has been very good which has been one of the gratest blessing that I could wish. I have been loocking for a letter from home untill I have given up. do not expect to hear while I stop in California. I shall send a few specimens of Gold by Mr. Woods, some that I dug six or eight feet deep in the ground. Mr. Woods will go from Lowell to Chester to let you know what I am doing it is now late in the evening and have not tim to write mor. give my respects to all enquiring friends Wyman from Lowell will go to the States with Mr. Woods

Yours with Respect

J A H

Letter V

(Addressee) Mis Sarah Hazelton, East Chester, N. H.

San Francisco. Dec. 12, 1850

Respected Sister

I recived your Letter of Oct 13 and it is well you tooke the trouble to write me. for I have written untill I am tired and have received no answer. have been to the Post Office at the arival of every Steamer. and have been two and three hours in going through and had the pleasure of receaving no letter. and had come to the conclusion not to wright untill I had heard from home. I am glad to hear from you and that you had taken the trouble to write me I sent one Letter by Capt Mears to you before I wrote to Mr. Shirley. I have since written and sent by Mr. Woods and also four ounces an a quarter of Gold Dust of my own diging.

I expect you ar anxious to hear from me and to know what I am doing. well in the first place a Mr. Roberts and myself have Bought a tripe factory gave fifteen hundred dollars. we hire two men give them \$75 per month and board them and ar doing very well I have never made less than \$10 per day since I have been engaged in the business if the fires¹ hold off we shall be all right

San Francisco has become a large and flourishing City. where one year ago there was hardly a desent Building now there is beautiful Buildings and streets laide out on the most aproved style. Hilles ar leveled and vallies ar filled up. there is every indication to suppose that San Francisco will in time be one of the leading Cities of the World.²

San Francisco is made up from citisens from all parts of the world³ we have some very handsome spanish Ladies and some handsome indian squaws I don't know but I shall fetch one home with me when I go home. ask Mother what she thinks aboute it

It is imposible for me to site any time when I shall start to go hom I am so situated in buisness.

I havent seen Lock since last spring he went to the northern mines with his Brother in law and two Brothers I have heard from him His Brother-inlaw is dead and they had made oute nothing. Samuel Shackford is dead Died very sudenly at Sacramento City. Mr. James wilson of Derry has a situation as one of our Policemen and is liked well.

you speake of the Potato rot being bad. you must come oute to California if you want some good Potatoes we have some of the best in the world⁴ I Bought a bag a few days since for 10¹/₂ per lb the handsomest I ever saw.

we have a plenty vegetables of all kinds. you would like to take a peep at our Market it is filled with Wild Gees and Ducks of all kinds Deer antilope Elk, in any quantity. last night I saw four Grisley Bares for sale. this is a grate Countrey I saw one a few days since hanging up in market weighing 1460 lbs. this is nothing to what is seen some times.

In regard to coming home you must let me be my own Judge in regard to that. give my respects to sophia⁵ for writeing. she must excuse me for not writeing as it is hard to get time also remember me to Brother Abaham and Abba⁶ for the like favour tell them when I come home I will tell them all about it. You wrote me that Anett was at Springfield in the Factory I don't like the idea of her being there with those Dinsmores⁷

give my respects to all enquiring friends and write often

Yours Afec

J A H

NOTES

1. *Annals of San Francisco*, Soule, Gihon and Nisbet (N. Y., 1855), p. 309. "A great many attempts at incendiarism had been detected, although the charge seldom or never could be fairly brought home to individuals."

2. *Annals of San Francisco*, p. 304. "Instead of the old scenes of terrible confusion which we have described as existing at the close of 1849, the city, only one twelvemonth later, presented an orderly, decent and busy aspect, with moderately clean and regular streets, houses of fair proportions, prices of provisions and goods reasonable, markets supplied with every luxury for the table, convenient wharves for shipping, 'expresses' by sea and land, a dozen churches, . . . and with almost every luxury, convenience and necessary, . . . that old cities . . . could boast of."

3. *Annals of San Francisco*, p. 300. "In the course of the year 1850, upwards of thirty-six thousand persons arrived by sea in San Francisco. Of these fully one-half came direct from foreign ports, while many of those that crossed the Isthmus of Panama were likewise from foreign countries. . . ."

4. See Note 2.

5. This may have been his niece, Anna Sophia Jenners, a small child.

6. Probably his sister Abigail and brother-in-law Abraham Jenners.

7. His sister Annette married George Dinsmore in 1852.

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Letter VI

to Sarah Jane, Dear Sister

I will wish you merry Christmas it is Christmas morn, and I should like some of mothers dinner. today I think it would relish well.

I received your letter of July wishing to know if there is to be any Fighting. I can tell you there is no fighting out here Men have other things to do of more consequence and as regards theft Property of all kinds is laying round in the streets and is perfectly safe. I hope my sister has more confidence in me then to think after living thus far in the world should give away to any temptation to degrade myself A clean conscience a Heart is better to me then gold and when I loose that I loose everything woth living for. yet your advise is very good.

this letter I send by Mr. bishop¹ of Boston, which came out in the Brig with us. I want you to all write and tell me every thing that has hapened how william is doing in the store and how Edwin is getting along, what Father has raised on the farm all the Politticle news and nicknacks, such as Compliments, I should like to take a sleigh ride wer I at home one of those plesent Evenings. we have plenty of need to make up the loss of such enjoyments.

I have written these letters in a hurry calculating to copy them of and I must tell you and Emma² not to let no one except our family see them for thay ar written so I can hardly read them myself.

Edward Hazelton Received a letter by the last Steamer of the Death of his Wife. he feeles very bad and is calculating to go home in the next Steamer I calculate to stop here untill next fall.

tell abraham³ not to come out unless he gets a letter from me. tell Mother that the Cheese she sent in the chest was the best I ever eat and was the only one on board. I passed it round and it had the praise of all. they think that they shall call round by the way of Chester when they go back, and become acquainted with mother.

I can now tell you what I think of California those that come out here do well, but those that ar at home doing well had better stay

Give my respects to all

Yours affectionately

John A Hazelton

NOTES

1. In *The Argonauts of California*, C. W. Haskins, p. 496, listed as William Bishop.
2. Most likely his sister Emeline.
3. See Note 6 after Letter V.

* * *

John Adams Hazelton returned to Chester and on June 14, 1854, married Louise Jane, the daughter of Josiah and Adaline (Ayer) Chase. Mrs. Hazelton had been born in Chester, March 15, 1828.

In 1862 Hazelton enlisted in Company K, 15th New Hampshire Regiment, where he served as corporal and sergeant. In later years he was a charter member and regular attendant of Bell Post, G.A.R. Hazelton was a Republican and held various public offices in his community. He died in 1912 at the age of 92, having outlived his nine brothers and sisters.

The Hazelton House

BEFORE THE ROYAL CHARTER was granted (1722), the first house had been built in Chester, New Hampshire. This was the home of Samuel Ingalls. Near this landmark stood the home of Hazelton's father-in-law, Josiah Chase. It was here on Walnut Hill and at the edge of town that John Adams Hazelton made his home and reared his children. Even in those early years of his married life, the house was old; for, as everyone knew, it had been built before the Revolution.

The house still stands, and, facing west, affords a view of New Hampshire countryside, while to the south it overlooks a magnificent panorama of forest and meadow and village, scattered yet having form. The uniqueness of this house today lies in its construction: two floors around a great central chimney in which are six fireplaces. Old and cherished furniture was part of the charm of the place; and odd items, such as a sampler signed by Josiah's sister "Mary Chase, Chester, July 28th, 1814. Aged 11 years." A great grandfather clock from the eighteenth century stood in the front hall and contained a note signed by Josiah's son George, born 1836. And on the landing stood another such teller of time. "The attic," says Dr. Sticht, "contained everything—flintlock guns, account books of money paid in shillings and pence, trunks of letters, and much more."

Such was the house where the Hazelton letters were found.

Genealogy

JOHN ADAMS HAZELTON

AT SOME TIME before 1736 Ephraim Hazelton married Ruth Ingalls. Their son John (1736-1815), of Chester, was married to his second wife, Hannah Chase, about 1785. Samuel (1786-1869), of the third generation, was married in 1815 to Abigail Tabor (1794-1879), daughter of Eben and Abigail (Colby) Tabor, the latter being the daughter of Benaiah and Abigail (Emerson) Colby. (Benaiah's father had gone to Chester in 1727.) Samuel and Abigail had ten children, including John Adams, who married at Worcester, Massachusetts, and purchased for his home the "old Chase house" in Chester.

These ten children were as follows: Gilman (1816-1842); Samuel (1818-1847), who married Sarah Norton; John Adams, who sailed around the Horn; Abigail Sawyer (1822-1866), who was married at Derry (1844) to Abraham Jenner; Elvin (1823-1825); Emeline (1826-1908); Sarah Jane (1828-1887), who married Napoleon Bonaparte Stage; Annette Elvira (1831-1867), who married George Dinsmore and later went to Christian, Illinois; Nancy Norton (1833-1861); Mary Adelaide (1837-1865), a teacher.

LOUISE JANE CHASE

In 1753 Johnson Chase, born 1730 in Newburyport, Massachusetts, married Abigail Pike (1729-1804) of Chester, daughter of Thomas, Jr., and Lois Pike. Their son Perley Chase (1758-1839), a soldier of the Revolution, married Mary Ingalls, daughter of Nathaniel and Abigail (Chase) Ingalls. Perley's son Josiah Chase (1791-1839) became the husband of Adaline Ayer (1801-1883), the daughter of Peter and Abigail (Eaton) Ayer. Josiah's daughter Louise Jane married John Adams Hazelton and lived out her life in the old house on Walnut Hill.

THE CHILDREN

Jennie Porter (1855-1951), a teacher in public and private schools and, later, active in political affairs and member of the school board; Frances Rebecca (1857-1881); Anna Louise (1860-1911); Josephine Banks (1862-1863); Abigail Parkhurst (1864-1945), principal of Durell School in Somerville, Massachusetts, and director of Camp Anawon on Lake Winnebaukee; Alice Byrde (1868-1933), a teacher in Runkle School, Brookline, Massachusetts; Frederick Stanton (1870-1895), who died in Colorado.

John Adams Hazelton had no grandchildren.

